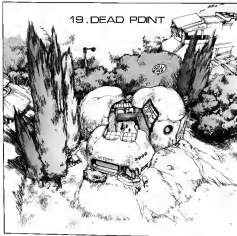


19. DEAD POINT





DOOM!
IS ANYBODY HOME?

?

?

YES,
TODAY I AM
IN A
MOST
BAD
MOOD!

SOMETHING
WRONG
...?

YES!
YES!
SOMETHING
IS MOST
WRONG
CERTAINLY!

What
is?

YOUR STRAWHAT
LOGIC BRINGS ME A
REAL GUYSON?!!
OH, SORRY, I THOUGHT
YOU WERE THAT DAMNED
RUSSIAN AGAIN!



BUT
OF COURSE THE
WORLD'S BEING
ARMY?



THEY HERE
AT IT ALL
MORNING!
AT LEAST
I'LL BE ABLE TO
REACH AN
ALPHA STATE
NOW.



WE
NEED
SOME
KIND OF
INTER-
MEDIARY

WE
NEED
SOME
KIND OF
INTER-
MEDIARY



I DON'T
KNOW. YOU
ALL LOOK
ALIKE TO ME.
ANYWAY, IS
THAT WHY
YOU CALLED
IN "KIDS
CAME AU
L'ATT'
MELANS
AND I"

COULD
YOU AT LEAST
TRY? I'VE
REALLY GOT MY
HANDS FULL
CHECKING
THE DATA
ON
ADAMS.

ADAMS?
O-SURE--
AND I'VE GOT
ALL THE TIME
IN THE
WORLD,
RIGHT?



SO WHO'S THIS ARTIST?

AFTERALL, DEAR, SHE'S THE NEW MODEL SUPPOSED TO BE LIVING HERE WITH ME. A REAL HOUSEWIFE!

QUITE A CREATURE. HER HAIR CHANGES COLOR TO SHIELD HER AGAINST SPECTROLET. IT EVEN CHANGES LENGTH! ACCORDING TO CLIMATE TO MAINTAIN HER BODY TEMPERATURE.

ANYWAY, SHE'S SOME MISSING, BUT THEY SAY SHE'S NOT CAT EYED AND BLIND LIKE A HOLE DEEP. SO HOW LONG CAN SHE HOLD OUT LOOKING LIKE THAT, huh?

!

WOW! LOOK AT THIS - WITHOUT LIFE EXTENSION PROCEEDING, SHE AGES FIVE TIMES FASTER THAN NORMAL! AND GET THIS - SHE CAN GROW HERSELF!

IN HOUSE PRODUCTION, BUT NOT CONTRIBUTING MUCH TO PRODUCTION, IS SHE?

WOW! A NEW TYPE OF ARTIST!

EVEN PLAYING AROUND
SELF-POLLINATION...

ARTIFICIALITY IS OUR ONLY
ADVANTAGE FOR
SPECIES EVOLUTION.
BUT EVEN IF IT'S
GOOD FOR INDIVIDUAL
ORGANISMS, THE SPECIES
AS A WHOLE CAN
KEEP UP WITH AN
EVOLVING ENVIRONMENT.

ARTIFIALS
MAY BE
CHANGING
ALL THE TIME,
BUT SHE'S
A DEAD END.
A DEAD WOMAN
SAYS.

WHY ARE
YOU
SAYING
THAT?

THAT WAS
ALREADY KNOWN
AND KNOWN
BEFORE... JUST
THE WAY THE
ARTIFICIAL
AND ORGANIC
ARE INTERMIXING
AND...

IN ORDER TO
PRESERVE
LEE MAY FOR CHANGE,
YOU ALWAYS
HAVE TO RENEW...

MESSENGER WOULD
YOU AT LEAST STOP
BEING SO
GLOOMY??



EVERY-
THING
IS AS IT
IS.

AND
WHAT
IS IN
EVERY-
THING?

SHE'S A
MEMBER OF
SEAMSTRESS—
A GENUINE
COMBAT
CYBORG.
SHE'S ONE
OF MY
MILITARY
FRIENDS...

YOU
KNOW
A
CYBORG,
DO YOU?

WELL,
YES. I
KNOW
ONE. THAT
MAYBE
HE IS.

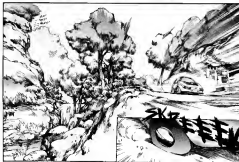
OH, YEAH? I
BROUGHT THE
SAMPLES FOR
OUR "CHOCOLATE
PARTY"
HAVE A
BITE!

AND
HERE
I
CALLED
YOU
BECAUSE
I
WAS
SO
Bored...

AND
YOU
ARE
HERE.

OLYMPIA - METROPOLIS PARK







HEY,
WHEN WAS
THE LAST
TIME WE
GOT A
VACATION?

THAT
TIME WE
JUMPED OFF
THE PROBABLY
TRUCK IN
JORDAN.
REMEMBER?
BUSTED
OUR
LEGS.

SHIT,
WE
ONLY
GOT
FOUR
DAYS!

I'VE GOT TO
WATER THE VIOLETS
IN MY
BACK YARD —
I'M WORKING
LIKE A DAMNED
BOSS! DID
THESE
GUYS

HEY, IT'S A
FINE TRADITION
TO WORK
PEOPLE LIKE
MACHINES —
NO ROOM
FOR CHANGE
THESE
FALL.

HOWDY,
PARTNERS...
HOW'S IT
HANGIN' ...?

ROUND
ARTISTS
DID
LOT

WE'VE
FOUND
A
NUMBER
OF
SIGNS.

CARCASSES OF
SMALL ANIMALS,
FOR EXAMPLE, BUT
THEY COULD JUST
BE DECEITS.
I DON'T REMEMBER
ASKING FOR
REINFORCEMENTS.

NO
FEELING
OF
IT
YET

THE
WHOLE
TRICK
IS
HER
HUNTING
GROUND.





ARMOR IT'S A GOOD IDEA BUT A LITTLE WEIRD... BUT A GOOD IDEA... BUT A LITTLE WEIRD...





MOST OF THE BUSH GROUND COVER HAS BEEN DISAPPEARED TO EXPOSE THE "BROODER" FLOORS. THESE GAPS WHICH REMAIN TEND TO BE DEEPER THAN AVERAGE BUSH BROWN. THEY HAVE GOOD DRAINAGE. HOWEVER, THEY ARE OFTEN RICH ENVIRONMENTS FOR LIFE. HEATH PARKS SUCH AS THIS.









AS TO AID,
CALL
MOORE
SEVENTEEN



AID,
MOORE

BETTER
CONSIDER EVERY
CARRISS YOU FIND
AROUND HERE TO
BE LIVING. THAT
"ALARM" SHOULD
TELL US WE -
TIME TO SPREAD
THE NET.



THE WAY YOU'RE SET
UP, EVEN A DRILLIE
BUT WOULDN'T DO
YOU ANY GOOD FOR
CAMP. YOU GO
UNDERCOVER, I'LL
PLAY THE
OWL.



HOW
DID
YOU
KNOW

SHE
USED
SOME
CHEMICAL
TO
DIAGNOSTIC
THE
CARRISS-
NO
PLAY'S.





HOW
WHAT'S
WOOLNY?
REALLY
HATED.
WHAT'S
GOTTEN
INTO
YOU?



YOU ALWAYS
DO THAT
WAY ON YOUR
WALKS. I
WONDER IF THE
OLSONS
GOT A NEW
WATCHDOG?



JUDGING
FROM THE
TRACE HEAT
SIGNATURE
ON THAT
BUSTARD,
SHE CAN'T
BE FAR
AWAY.

IT'S A
CATCHPOOL
FOR THE
BUTTER
BROCK AND
ALL THE
SMALL
OF THE
ROCKET

SHE'S COVERED
HERSELF IN ALL
DIRECTIONS --
CAN HEAR AN
INTERLUDE'S
FOOTSTEPS -- CAN'T
BOtherED BY
INSECTS AND
SMALL ANIMALS
WHEN SHE'S
SLEEPING.



































I'M GOING TO INJECT YOU WITH KNOWHOW TS AND TERMINATE YOUR LIFE-EXTENSION CYCLE PERMANENTLY

GRANT GRANTED

THE EXTENSION CYCLE CAN BE TERMINATED WITHOUT THE KNOWHOW TOWERS



ONCE THE NEGATIVE TALE EFFECTS I'M GOING TO CUT INTO YOUR LIFE-EXTENSION MECHANISM AND SOAK THE POISON

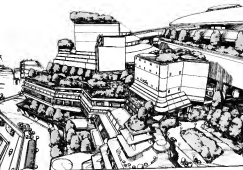
I'LL HAVE TO CUT OUT SOME OF YOUR ABSORPTION AND PURIFICATION IMPLANTS



YOU-BACKSTAB? CAN'T YOU TELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN YOUR PARTNER AND SOME KIND OF ASSHOLE??



CAN YOU??



SHE'S CALLED ARTEMIS ALPINE, IS SHE?

HAVE YOU GOT THAT REP BLOOD CELL COUNT?

JUST GOT IT FOR YOU, MAM!

LET ME HAVE THAT, PLEASE!

COULD YOU HAVE A GLASS OF WATER FOR ME, PLEASE?

YES, MAM!

ARTEMIS HAS A GREEK GODDESS WHO PROTECTED THE TEMPLE OF MARBLE, A VIRGIN MATURE SE ASSOCIATED WITH THE MOON. SHE SACRIFICED A PAIR OF ARROWS UPON HER BIRTH.

SHE HOLDS THE KEY TO SOLVING GALT'S PROBLEM, BUT YOU THINK SHE CAN PRESERVE AND PROTECT THE WILDLIFE OF MARBLE MOUNTAIN?

ALPINE HAS A "MAYDAY" GODDESS "G-F" GODDES, IN A LATER KNOWN AS ALPINE AND BY MANY OTHER NAMES.





WHAT PROOF DO WE HAVE THAT ARTIMUS ISN'T A KAGE?

PROOF? I DON'T KNOW.

Z-E DUBIOUS BETWEEN TWO DIFFERENT SPECIES HELDS COUNTLESS DILEMMAS AND TRUL ANOTHER FOR EACH SUCCESSFUL UNIT TO HAVE COME UP WITH DARE AS WELL BALANCED AS SHE IS. ASSUMING SHE WENT A HARE, WOULD TAKE A PARADE.

SEE
INSTAL-
LATION.



NOW THAT THE DATA'S BEEN RECOVERED, SHE'S BEEN TURNED OVER TO THE COUNCIL.

I HAVE NO OBJECTIONS TO THAT.



WE'VE ISOLATED ALL OF DATA'S B-LOCK CIRCUITS, AND THEY'VE BEEN USED EXCLUSIVELY TO DECODE THE DATA.

EVEN SO, IT WON'T BE READY BY THE NEXT SESSION OF THE LEGISLATURE.



WE STILL HAVE TIME.

THAT LITTLE COMMODITY THE CITY PLANNING TEAM WANTED SO BADLY AND COULD NEVER GET ENOUGH OF TIME...



GRRANK

BRT

TOO SLOW!
DO IT AGAIN!





*THE MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR SECURITY BUREAU ON THE LEFT, THE SPECIALIZED SUB-ORGANIZATIONS: THE CROWD INTELLIGENCE BUREAU, AND OTHERS, AND THE FBI INTERNATIONAL CRIME UNIT IN THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE ON THE DOMESTIC SIDE.



SHED IT...
THEY STUFFED
MY BOY
WITH THOSE
DAMNED
GADGETS
OF THEIRS.
Heave!

WE MADE
OUT
ALL RIGHT...
YOU BATHED
ME, DRESSED
AND CHAINED
IN THE
DUNGEON?

BUT LIGHT...
DON'T GET MAD
AGAINST US
BECAUSE IS WHAT
IT IS. WELL,
THE MIDDLE EAST
IS HEATING UP
AGAIN...
NO IT'S -- NOW IT
DEALS ARE
GONNA SOLVE
THAT
ONE.



LEAVE SEE...
SAYS HERE
THE ANTI
JAPANESE
REVOLUTIONARY.
ALWAYS
PICKING A
FIGHT WITH
FRANCE TOO.
HAD I'M NOT
SHALL
AGAINST
SAND
STORMS...

HOW
ABOUT
WASTING
SOME
TALK
FINANCIAL
IN THE
PLAYERS?
YOU KNOW
WHAT THEY
PAY YOU FOR
WILLING?

I'VE HEARD RUMORS
THAT MORRIS
UP TO SOMETHING
ABOUT THE
OLYMPIC RING
TO MAKE A
REACT
AND
PLAY...

HE
WILL
BE
MUCH
WORTH
THE
RISK

HEY, BOYS!
THAT'S NOT IT
YOUNG THINGS
ONE OF THEM
HAS A
CYBORG
TRANSFORMED ME
ON THE 3RD
PICKING UP THE
SIGNAL...

Illustration: The Japanese revolutionaries, around the middle revolution of the 19th century, the revolution is the first





CRASH!!



HOW WERE THE ROBOT?

WORST EVER.



BUT AT LEAST ALL THAT STUPID SCRAP FLAMES OVER AT LAST."

DOAN'T TALK LIKE THAT



I CAN UNDERSTAND RESTRICTING MAINTENANCE TECHNOLOGY TO KEEP THE CIBELS FROM ILLEGAL CYBORG AMPLIFIERS...

...BUT THEY WERE EVER ENFORCING ROBOT I WAS FROM HANDED OUT PEOPLE?



I COULDN'T
CARE LESS ABOUT
THE SIXH
AUTONOMOUS REPUBLIC
OR THE 12 GRAM
WARRS OF
"INDEPENDENCE".
BUT TO
SLAM THE
DIGNITY OUT OF
HARMLESS
CIVILIANS
LIKE THAT

THE BARONISTICK
THEIR GUN IN. FORGODD
SELLS WEAPONS TO
ANYONE WHO
THEY'D BROUGHT
IN NEUTRAL NEGOTIATORS
SOONER, MAYBE
IT WOULDN'T
HAVE --



SORRY...



I'M JUST
A LITTLE TIRED,
THAT'S ALL.
WE HAVEN'T
HAD A BREAK
IN AGES



JUST
LET ME
GET
CLEANED
UP. BUT
THIS
CRAP
ON ME.







SAY BRAGGOS



YOU DON'T THINK I AM JUST... JUST DEAD RIGHT, DO YOU?



WELL, I'D BEEN ASKING TO BRING IT UP SOMETIME

YOUR ALLIES HAVE BEEN DOING STEADILY EVER SINCE WE GOT HERE. WHAT'S GOING ON?



WELL... I JUST CAN'T TRUST ANYONE



SO WHY DON'T YOU JUST GO BACK TO YOUR OLD UNIT?

.....



DO YOU EXPECT ME TO JUST SIT AT HOME LIKE A LUMP AND WORRY ABOUT YOU??



NOTHING OF THE SORT...

BUT SOMETIMES I DO THINK IT WOULD BE BETTER ALL AROUND.



I'VE HEARD ENOUGH, THANK YOU!

LOOK, YOU'RE MAKING THIS ALL WRONG.



I'M NOT GOING TO ORDER YOU TO TRUST ME, BUT REMEMBER, FIRST YOU HAVE TO BE TRUSTWORTHY.

WHERE IS THE OLD FIGHTING MACHINE SLEEPING -?





YOU!



WHERE'S YOUR
SATELLITE?

SHE'S AT
APRILLOAL.



THOUGHT IF I HUNG
OUT AT THE
CYBERS
CENTER
I'D RUN
INTO YOU.

I'M GETTING
MY LAST
ADJUSTMENTS
DONE
TODAY...
SO YOU'RE A
LUCKY
GUY.



YOU PLANNED
FROM THE
START
TO PASS THE
ADMINISTRATIVE
DIRECTOR'S
PLAN TO
POSEIDON,
HAVEN'T YOU?

THAT'S
WHAT
I'M HERE
ABOUT,
BRASSHOL.







OHAY,
THAT
DOES
IT

WITH
JUST
ONE
ULTRASOUND



WE JUST CALCULATE
AN AVERAGE OFF
TWO SHALATIOUS
SHOTS -- ONE
FROM YOUR
FRONT, ONE
FROM YOUR
SIDE

MY MY MY!
A LOT OF
PASTIL STREMS
IN THERE --
LOOKS LIKE
SOME
MICRO
FRACTURES



YOU
CAN HEARLY
GET THAT
MUCH
DETAIL
OFF THE
ULTRASOUND

BACK IN
THE OLD DAYS,
THEY HAD
TO CHECK
ALL MY
INTERNAL
STRESS
GAUGES

A color reader says that with today's technology, you can get a much better picture of what's going on inside your body. (p. 10) (p. 10)



WE'LL CALL YOU
WHEN THE FINAL
RESULTS COME
IN. I'LL JUST
HAVE THE COST
DEDUCTED
FROM YOUR
ACCOUNT



HAVING ALL
THOSE OFFICIAL
LABORERS INSIDE
HE GIVES ME
CHILLS.
STILL, GUESS I
DON'T JUST HAVE
YOU YANK
THAT





I DON'T WANT TO QUIT THIS WORK, AND I DON'T WANT TO BE SENT BACK TO MY OLD UNIT

ENOUGH, ENOUGH ALREADY! IT'S FASTER FOR ME TO JUST ADAPT TO YOUR NEW BEASTLY BEHAVIOR PATTERNS

SHUT UP!

DOES THAT MEAN YOU'LL TEAM UP WITH ME AGAIN?

YOU'RE MY INDISPENSIBLE FOURTH MAN, LANCE. UNDERSTANDS THAT VERY WELL.

WITHOUT YOU, SERIOUS OLD REASON AND HIS WEAPONS POD WOULD BE ROTTING ON THE WINE.

HE SAYS YOU'LL BE OUT OF TRAINING BY THE END OF THE WEEK, SO LIGHTEN UP, GRAY'S

WELL BE IN YOUR AT A VERY SOON



APPENDIX







I HEARD THE MUSLIMS ARE USING THEM TO RECAPTURE JERUSALEM FROM THE MUSLIMS...

THAT'S THE ONLY WAY TO GET IT BACK...

FUNNY THING IS, THEY'RE MOSTLY BRITISH TECHNOLOGY BECAUSE WORLD WAR II

...AND IT LOOKS LIKE THE FARTS COME FROM POLSKOON

WAG



WAG

H-AND THANK YOU! YUCK! TAKE IT

WAG

WOULD YOU PLEASE TALK TO HER?

OH, COME ON! IT'S NOT LIKE ITS SOME SORT OF MINDLESS THING...



THE LITTLE CONSPIRACIES OF CIVILIZATION WERE BRIBED FOR MOMENTS LIKE THIS?

KUH-HUH

THERE YOU GO AGAIN, GETTING THE UNHOLY TRINITY ALL BUILT UP HAVE SOME FUN FOR THE POOR SUFFERING BEAST!

JUST WHAT IS THAT LITTLE CAT FOR ANYWAY? ANYTHING OTHER THAN PLAYING AROUND WITH IT



END APPENDIX, APPLIED BOOK THREE



TFT

Ferry Telephone



We Love Beavers.